

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 021435Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4650

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 1247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJ: PALESTINIANS AND PEACE

1. IN NOVEMBER 1 CONVERSATION, PROMINENT HUSSEIN LOYALIST ANWAR NUQEIBEH TOOK LINE ON PALESTINIAN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL FOR KING'S SUPPORTER. HE SAID THAT RECENT WAR HAD INCREASED GAP BETWEEN WEST BANK AND JORDAN WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN OPENED BY 1970 CIVIL WAR AND KING'S UNITED ARAB KINGDOM PLAN (WHICH NUQEIBEH REGRETTED HIS HAVING MADE). FAILURE OF JORDAN TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN WAR WHILE SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS BORE BRUNT HAD FURTHER ENHANCED PALESTINIAN FEELING OF SEPARATENESS FROM JORDAN. HE THOUGHT THAT CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT IMPORTANT THAT HUSSEIN AND PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP BE RECONCILED. HE DID NOT MEAN THAT FEDAYEEN SHOULD OPERATE FROM JORDAN BUT THAT THEY SHOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH JORDAN IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT FAISAL MIGHT PRESS HUSSEIN IN THIS DIRECTION AND URGED THAT US DO LIKEWISE.

2. COMMENT: AT LEAST IN RETROSPECT, NUQEIBEH DID NOT REFLECT
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WIDESPREAD WEST BANK FEELING THAT HUSSEIN DID WELL TO KEEP

PARTICIPATION IN WAR LIMITED AND DISTANT. PRESUMABLY HE FEELS THIS HAS EVEN FURTHER WEAKENED INFLUENCE OF HUSSEIN LOYALISTS ON WEST BANK. WITH KING TO A DEGREE IN ECLIPSE, PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS LOOKING LIKE THEY MIGHT ENHANCE THEIR INFLUENCE BY BEING REASONABLE, AND WITH EGYPT APPEARING TO TREAT THE PALESTINIANS AS FORCE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, IT IS NO WONDER THAT MAN LIKE NUSEIBEH WOULD WISH THE KING TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION BY UNITING WITH THE PALESTINIANS. FROM US POINT OF VIEW, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE PALESTINIANS REPRESENTED IN ANY SETTLEMENT PROCESS BY JORDAN, PRESUMABLY WITH PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION.

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